

To designate MARCH 2021 as “Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month”

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
A Proclamation
His Excellency Governor Charles D. Baker

Whereas: There are more than 200,000 children and adults in the Commonwealth who have intellectual and developmental disabilities; and

Whereas: Intellectual and developmental disabilities are conditions which begin early in life and affect major activities of daily living such as self-care, mobility, language, learning, and self-direction; and

Whereas: Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities frequently require specialized interdisciplinary services and treatment as well as individualized services and supports for extended periods of their lives; and

Whereas: The Commonwealth has been an early leader in promoting awareness about disabilities by passing the 1973 Massachusetts Public Education Law, Rule 766, requiring individualized educational programs regardless of disability; and

Whereas: The supports provided by family members, caregivers, friends, professionals and concerned citizens enable individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to participate in education, employment, and community living; and

Whereas: The Massachusetts legislature recently passed legislation that creates an abuse registry of providers that have histories of substantiated cases of abuse to better protect persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities; and

Whereas: Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are capable of living full and productive lives, deserving of opportunities to be independent, economically self-sufficient, and contributing members of the communities where they choose to live; and

Whereas: the Commonwealth values the diversity that people with disabilities, their families and supporters bring to our communities; and

Whereas: Governor Baker’s proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget includes a disability employment tax credit for employers who hire and keep people with disabilities within the Commonwealth;

Whereas: the Commonwealth of Massachusetts recognizes the unique role that members of the Developmental Disabilities Council play to ensure people with intellectual and developmental disabilities share the same opportunities as other members of their community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charles Duane Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the month of MARCH 2021 to be

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

And urge the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.